

# Forth Valley CHSWG

<b>Date :</b> 25/09/24	<b>Time/Venue :</b> 10-12pm, Windsor Park
<b>Meeting called by</b>	Kieran Gemmell
<b>Type of meeting</b>	Quarterly CHSWG Workgroup
<b>Chairperson</b>	Kieran Gemmell
<b>Note Taker</b>	Amanda Walker
<b>Attendees</b>	Kieran Gemmell, PT and ToDCYP, Clacks Jackie Donati, Electronic Note Taker Catherine Cameron, ToDCYP, Stirling Ella McGinlay, ToDCYP, Striling Amanda Walker, HT/Educational Audiologist, Windsor Park, Falkirk Marie Cafferky, Advice and Guidance Officer, NDCS Rachel O'Neill, University of Edinburgh Susanne Robertson, Youth/Family Support Worker, FVSC Richard Vevers, FVSC Leza Munro, NHS FV Audiology
<b>Apologies</b>	Katie Clark, SLT Deafness, NHS FV Brogan Ferguson, Crosshouse CI Centre Alison Lawson, NDCS Alan Simpson, FVSC Sammy Sneddon, Parent representative

## UNCRC

A discussion took place around the incorporation of UNCRC and the implications of this on the services for Deaf CYP that we provide. Each education authority seems to be at very different stages of incorporating this in to daily work. Amanda highlighted that children and young people's rights is now one of the NIF priorities and that all educators should have this central to their practice.

Rachel enquired as to whether a deaf young person could be recruited to the CHSWG group. This will be considered.

UNCRPD is also something that should be explored.

Amanda suggested that our CHSWG Terms of Reference etc should be updated to incorporate the language of UNCRC

## Specialist Deaf CAMHS

Amanda and Rachel have been advocating for many years for a Specialist Deaf CAMHS Service. NDCS Scotland (M Ballard) indicated at the HOSS Forum when asked directly by Amanda that they will not campaign for this as they do not feel it's something they would be successful with.

England and Northern Ireland both have specialist Deaf CAMHS Services. Bronagh Byrne helped established the Northern Ireland service by making it the focus of her thesis. Could a similar approach work? Funding would need to be secured for an

individual to take this forward. Susanne suggested Skills Development Scotland for possible funding. Rachel will also investigate possible funding sources.

A discussion took place around alternative 'deaf counselling' services that may be available as a short term approach.

Amanda suggested that the BDA may support any campaign.

In order to help drive forward with a campaign for this, the following action points were agreed;

- 1) FOI Request via Scottish Parliament to ascertain how many deaf CYP had been referred to Specialist Deaf CAMHS in England for assessment/support in the last five years. Contact Karen Adam (MSP) and Monica Lennon (MSP) to assist with this. (Amanda)
- 2) Contact Trudie Collier (Amanda) and Philip Gerard (Rachel) to enquire about face to face deaf counselling services for <18.
- 3) Contact representatives from other CHSWGs in Scotland to gather support. (Amanda/Kieran/Rachel)
- 4) Ask for CHSWG/Deaf CAMHS to be added to the HOSS Forum agenda on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. (Amanda)

## **Education Updates**

### **Falkirk** (Amanda)

Windsor Park are currently advertising for a Teacher of Deaf Children and Young People. This is a temporary post. If there are no successful candidates, this post will be advertised permanently.

Windsor Park achieved Gold Rights Respecting School Status in June 2024.

Windsor Park staff continue to work towards achieving at least Level 3 Signature BSL.

### **Clacks (Kieran)**

We've been working this term with our caseloads, including new referrals, we are also supporting and managing transitions across year groups for our deaf pupils. Supporting pupil voice in the UNCRC context, advising and supporting professionals within schools. A very busy start to the term with lots of positive outcomes already achieved.

CSW being recruited and will hopefully be in post by November.

### **Stirling (Catherine)**

Ella McGinlay (our new Teacher of the Deaf) and I will both attend on Wednesday. Ella's e-mail address is mcginlaye60s@glowmail.org.uk. I've included her in this e-mail.

Jennifer Ward left Stirling Council at the end of June and has moved to a new role within Education on an island school. She sounds very busy but enjoying it. Last

week our new Teacher of the Deaf, Ella McGinlay, started with us. Ella will be working full time and will hopefully be starting the Inclusive Education course at Edinburgh University soon to become a fully qualified ToD.

I've been overseeing both caselists since the start of term, which has been exceedingly busy! Most of the term has consisted of Deaf Awareness training for lots of new class teachers and checking / setting up radio aids etc. I'm looking forward to being able to start more personalised work programmes with my pupils soon.

### **SLT Update (Katie)**

I have a joint visit with Gillian Bennie scheduled for 9.30 on the morning of our CHSWG. It was one of the few times both of us were free and this particular family can be difficult to engage. I think it is probably best for me to give my apologies rather than walk into the meeting an hour late. If the visit doesn't happen to go ahead, I will attend as planned.

In terms of an update, it's a busy term already with current CYP on the caseload but it has been quiet in terms of new ones. A few children with conductive loss have come back from the summer holiday having had grommets inserted.

### **Audiology Update (Lisa)**

We are in a better staffing position, but still not fully staffed. Our paediatric waits remain acceptable and our adult waits are starting to stabilise. Our diagnostic ABR waits for the newborns are still under 4 weeks and with Ingrid back, we now have 2 staff qualified to carry out this complex assessment.

3 new ENT consultants have joined NHS Forth Valley.

Lisa asked if other members of her team could attend meetings on a rota basis. The group were happy for this to take place.

### **NDCS Update**

All the new Family Programme events are on the website – they are free to attend, and have lots of different topics.

There will be a Claiming CDP for your Deaf Child event on Tues 29<sup>th</sup> October 1-2pm which is for Scottish Families only. There will be a presentation on what CDP is, who is eligible, and how to apply for CDP. There will then be time to ask any questions.

### **FVSC Updates**

## **Susanne**

The FVSC Youth Group has enjoyed a wide range of activities including:

baking, painting, picnic, football, frisbee, den building, games night, movie night, Glasgow Science Centre and Innoflate.

One of our highlights was our football coaching session. This was led by Central Football Academy and provided our group with lots of fun skills and activities to develop their confidence and persistence.

Glasgow Science Centre was an exceptionally fun experience with so much to see and do. Our young people could let their curiosity go wild and also worked well together to create a water dam and to build an arch.

In August, we had an exciting visit from Edinburgh University to conduct a science workshop with us. This was food themed and every young person was able to complete their own experiments, learning new skills. As two of the demonstrators are deaf and use BSL, with the third demonstrator interpreting for us, our young people had the opportunity to see other positive deaf role models and learn some general and science based BSL.

We are also looking to develop our youth and family service across Stirling and Clackmannanshire and to extend the age range that we cover. If you have any possible interest or suggestions, please email me [susannerobertson@forthvalleysensorycentre.org](mailto:susannerobertson@forthvalleysensorycentre.org)

After a break during the summer holidays, our Peer Support Group (for parents and carers of children who are deaf) met again in August. Our next meeting will be in October.

Abi Matheson has now joined the team as our new Deaf Awareness Advisor.

We are currently in the process of recruiting our new Groups & Activities co-ordinator.

Our next Lego group is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 12pm. It is £5 and this includes refreshments, all ages are welcome.

Our Winter Fayre is planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Susanne is leaving her post in October. She is unsure who will attend the group going forward.**

## **Richard**

Richard introduced himself and explained his role to the group. He aims to develop and grow the service and is looking forward to getting to know members of the group.

Stephen Joyce is no longer in post at FVSC.

### **Edinburgh University/Scottish Sensory Centre (Rachel)**

Rachel highlighted an upcoming History of BSL event at FVSC, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 1-3. Details will be distributed soon. All deaf young people (upper primary/secondary age) are welcome to attend.

### **Crosshouse CI Centre (Brogan)**

I think the only update from us is that we have three new members of staff. Mark Lighbody - coming from Glasgow to be a new clinical scientist. Kathryn Sullivan - coming from Glasgow to be new audio/rehab role and Ben Ashton who is our new trainee clinical scientist.

### **UNHS**

No update provided by Helena McDonald.

**Next Meeting : Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, Windsor Park (10-12pm)**